



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

June 9, 2016

Commander U.S. Army Garrison Fort Campbell
Attn: Environmental Division, NEPA Program Manager
Building 2159, 13th Street
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223

Subject: EPA's Comments on the Fort Campbell KY, Training Mission and Mission Support Activities Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS); CEQ Number: 20160103

Dear Mr. Zirkle:

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 has reviewed the U. S. Army Garrison Fort Campbell, KY Training Mission and Mission Support Activities Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS). Under Section 309 of the CAA, the EPA is responsible for reviewing and commenting on major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Background:

A Fort Campbell installation-wide mission evaluation was last performed in 1981 and documented in an EIS. It was titled, *101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky Final Environmental Impact Statement Installation Ongoing Mission* (Fort Campbell, 1981). Since then, there have been numerous advances to the type of soldier training, equipment, and units that train at Fort Campbell. Recent Army-wide mission changes (i.e., Army Transformation, Modularity, Grow the Army) have occurred at Fort Campbell, which has resulted in various stationing actions (growth) since 2004. These specific actions have been analyzed in previous NEPA documentation. Although these evolutions have occurred in compliance with federal regulations, statutes, and Executive Orders (EOs), Fort Campbell is conducting an update to the 1981 Installation Ongoing Mission EIS. This update looks at the environmental effects of continuing the ongoing mission of Fort Campbell, efforts to modernize and improve facilities, as well as proposed enhanced environmental procedures aimed at increasing efficiency. The following were identified as Fort Campbell's five primary objectives:

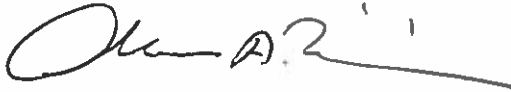
1. Help meet the primary range complex objectives outlined within the Range Complex Management Plan (RCMP) through the creation of modern facilities or upgrades to existing training infrastructure.
2. Help meet the primary training land objectives outlined within the RCMP through the creation of training infrastructure or upgrades to existing training infrastructure.
3. Streamline the review of routine range and training land actions.

4. Provide the airspace necessary to train units at Fort Campbell and to reduce scheduling conflicts.
5. Meet requirements of the Sustainable Range Program (SRP) and foster environmental stewardship.

The EPA has reviewed the potential environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the Training Mission and Mission Support Activities FPEIS. Based on the information provided in the FPEIS, it appears that you have addressed our primary environmental concerns for significant adverse impacts to public health and safety. EPA appreciates the responses to our March 9, 2015, comments regarding the Draft PEIS in which EPA requested more discussion on noise impacts as it relates to sensitive receptors (i.e., Children's health). We found that the additional discussion on noise found in Appendix F, page F-13 and the Appendix B checklist within the Final PEIS to be adequate to address our environmental concerns.

EPA understands that under this FPEIS, Fort Campbell has identified Alternative 5 as the preferred alternative which is to implement Proposed Action Alternatives 1-4. Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on this NEPA document. If you wish to discuss this matter further or have any questions, please contact Mr. Larry O. Gissentanna (404-562-8248 or gissentanna.larry@epa.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris A. Militscher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher A. Militscher
Chief, NEPA Program Office
Resource Conservation and Restoration Division